

# KANSAS SENTINEL

September 2010    Volume 1, Issue 7



## Volunteer Soldiers compete for coveted Air Assault slots



Through the Lens—  
*An Afghan collage*



2010  
Officer  
Candidate  
School  
graduation  
and Hall  
of Fame  
induction



35th Infantry  
Division  
Change of Command

# FEATURES

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## Assistant Adjutant General-Land Component:

Col. Lee Tafanelli

**Publisher:** Maj. Michael Wallace,  
105th MPAD, Commanding

**Editor:** Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke,  
105th MPAD, First Sergeant

**Graphic Design and Layout:** Maj. Michael Wallace  
Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke

**Proof and Editor-at-Large:** Jane Welch  
State Public Affairs Office

Articles, photos, artwork and letters are invited and should be addressed to: Editor, Kansas Sentinel, 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, 2722 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka, KS 66611. Telephone: 785-274-1902, or by email at: [phillip.witzke@ng.army.mil](mailto:phillip.witzke@ng.army.mil) or [michael.lee.wallace@us.army.mil](mailto:michael.lee.wallace@us.army.mil)

## On the cover:

*Spc. Steven McBryde, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, performs the 'belly crawl' on one of the obstacle courses at Fort Riley, Kan. He was participating in the Air Assault Pre-Course Aug. 7-8, 2010.*

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke, 105th MPAD

# Warrant Officer News

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer. Fall is here and winter is around the corner so now is the time to winterize your homes, equipment and vehicles. Don't wait until it's too cold or snow falls to complete your winterizations and end up with frost bite.

I would like to congratulate our newest Warrant Officer Matthew Svoboda. Matthew graduated at Fort Rucker on Aug. 17. I was attending my Senior Staff Course during that time and I was able to attend Warrant Officer Candidate Svoboda senior pinning. I was able to pin him as well as attend his graduation, and I pinned him during his ceremony. Svoboda will be attending his flight courses and we wish him the best of luck.

I would also like to congratulate Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ron Reed on his upcoming promotion to Chief Warrant Officer 5. There will be a pinning ceremony for Chief Reed on Sept. 21 in Topeka at Nickel Armory; the ceremony will begin at 10AM.

The Kansas Warrant Officer Corp is about 30 warrants short and if you are interested in becoming a warrant officer, now is the time to complete the pre-determination packet. The next Kansas Regional Training Institute (KSRTI) Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS) begins in February. Anyone interested in becoming a warrant officer can contact Chief Warrant Officer Michael Smith (Senior instructor) KSRTI, Warrant Officer recruiter Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jack Hancock or myself.

Don't forget to check out the Warrant Officer web page. ([https://www.us.army.mil/suite/portal/index.jsp;jsessionid=6E749524052779F7439D5EFC02221784.appd07\\_1](https://www.us.army.mil/suite/portal/index.jsp;jsessionid=6E749524052779F7439D5EFC02221784.appd07_1))

There is warrant officer information posted on this site concerning military operation specialty (MOS) changes, updates, pre-determination packet and new regulations. If you have any information that you



**Command Chief  
Warrant Officer  
Chief Warrant  
Officer 4  
Hector Vasquez**

think would benefit the Warrant Officer Corp please submit your info to Chief Warrant Officer 3 Sandra Lashley. Hopefully this site will improve communications between fellow warrant officers as well as seeking help or advice from warrant officers throughout our state.

In October the Senior Warrant Officer Advisory Council will meet. This council will provide input through the Command Chief Warrant Officer to the Adjutant General and command group on issues and policies relating to the recruiting, assignment, utilization, promotion, and retention of Warrant Officers. This is the first time that this council has been formed and our goal is to improve the Kansas Warrant Officer Corp. This group will consist

of senior warrants from the aviation, maintenance, logistics, safety and legal community. If you have an issue to bring up please contact your senior warrant and he/she can bring up your issues to the council.

If you know of any Warrant Officer News that you would like for me to place in the Sentinel such as promotions, graduations, retirements, or changes that affects Warrant Officers please send them to me and I will add them.

## Why is my unit not featured in the Sentinel?

Commanders, first sergeants, platoon leaders, unit public affairs representatives and unit administrators—we want to record your unit events and functions and have you featured in the Kansas Sentinel. All it takes is a phone call to the 105th MPAD to schedule for coverage. 1-785-274-1902 or 1896, or by emailing: [michael.lee.wallace@us.army.mil](mailto:michael.lee.wallace@us.army.mil) or [phillip.witzke@ng.army.mil](mailto:phillip.witzke@ng.army.mil)

# Soldiers vie for Air Assault Horn of Africa mission slots

Story by Spc. Stephanie Hodges,  
105th MPAD

**V**olunteers from across the Kansas National Guard came together at Fort Riley recently to test their metal and see where they would stack up as they each vied for a coveted spot in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 161<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Joint Combat Search and Rescue (JCSAR) platoon and a possible spot in an Air Assault school.

The soldiers, 36 in all, came knowing that the battalion will deploy in the near future to the Horn of Africa. That didn't deter them in the least. They had only one thing on their minds; Air Assault!

"The deployment is a non-standard (military) mission (peacekeeping) and there is a specific skill set the unit is looking for to complete that mission" said Capt. John Sherrill, the appointed Public Affairs Officer for the upcoming deployment. "Having soldiers attend the Air Assault Course is a piece of that; it's a piece of mission completion."

**See AIR ASSAULT,  
Page 5**

**INSET PHOTO**—A soldier tackling the last station called the 'weaver' gets a bird's eye view on one of the obstacle courses at Fort Riley, Kan. Kansas Army National Guard Soldiers were participating in the Air Assault Pre-Course Aug. 7-8, 2010.

Photo by Sgt. Beverly Fortner,  
Graphic Layout by Maj. Mike Wallace,  
105th MPAD

## Getting down to the dirt

*Spc. Jeremy Leach, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery clears the wire as Sgt. Eurik Hunt, 35th Military Police, performs the belly crawl on one of the obstacle courses at Fort Riley, Kan. The Soldiers were participating in the Air Assault Pre-Course Aug. 7-8, 2010.*

*Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke, 105th MPAD*



## From AIR ASSAULT, Page 4

“I wanted to see where I stood as far as being a candidate for Air Assault School,” said Spc. Jason Beaver, a soldier assigned to the 1161<sup>st</sup> Forward Support Company. “I wanted to see if I had the mental and physical stamina to complete the training. This training was everything I expected and more. The cadres were very knowledgeable and their experiences definitely pushed the students to their limits.”

To qualify to be an Air Assault candidate, participants had to first meet the basic requirements of height and weight and could not have a physical profile. This ensured there would be no preferential treatment when it came to the physical demands of the course.

Once they had reported for the qualifying weekend, participants were put through an Army Physical fitness test, in which they could score no less than 70 percent in any category. They were then given a written test regarding Air Assault related knowledge from a package of information that was provided them weeks prior to attending the weekend training. Applicants had to pass with at least 70 percent to be considered.

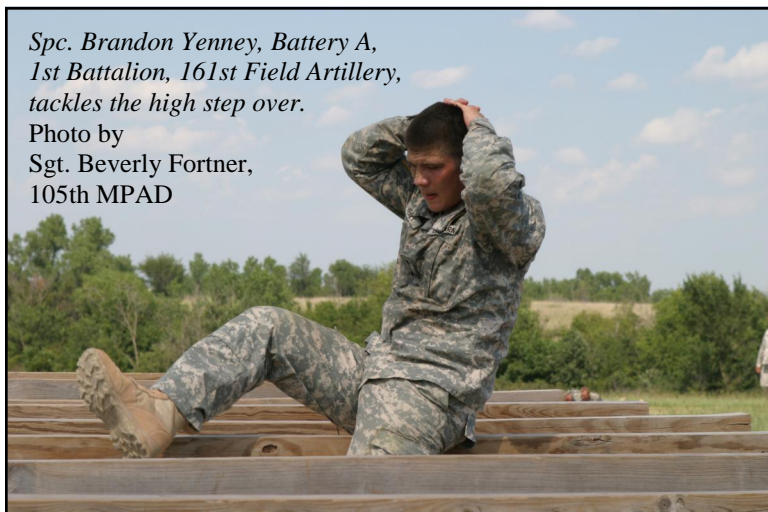
Once the written exam was completed, appli-

cants were put through the paces on one of the many obstacle courses on Fort Riley. They were required to complete eight of the nine obstacles on the course, with two being mandatory; the ‘confidence climb’ and the ‘tough one’. The ‘confidence climb’ is an obstacle comprised of a rope climb to an elevated platform of spaced logs that must be traversed. The platform is connected to a “ladder” that extends skyward. Applicants had to climb the ladder and descend using the attached netting.

## From AIR ASSAULT, Page 6

*Spc. Brandon Yenney, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, tackles the high step over.*

*Photo by Sgt. Beverly Fortner, 105th MPAD*



## From AIR ASSAULT, Page 5

The 'tough one' is an 'A' shaped log obstacle that requires the soldier to weave their way through the logs both up and down. Applicants were required to complete both obstacles plus six others to be considered to move on the six mile road march the next morning.

The road march, while half the length required to graduate Air Assault training, must be completed in 90 minutes while carrying a load of 35 pounds of preprescribed gear in a ruck sack. At the end of the march, an inventory was conducted and a point penalty assessed for each mission item.

"This is an eye opening experience," said recent Air Assault graduate and cadre Sgt. Joseph Timmer, a soldier with Battery A, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery. "We are taking what we learned and applying it to these people to see if they have what it takes to make it through. What we are hoping to do with this is reduce the attrition rate that the school already has. We lost 60 percent of those we sent. If we can weed out that percentage before we send them, we are less likely to lose them."

"I chose to do this training," said 35<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company Soldier, Sgt. Eurik Hunt. "I wanted a challenge for myself just to see if I could complete this course. I want a slot on the JCSAR platoon. This is one of the requirements, so I decided to give

it my all to see if I could get through the training. As a soldier, this gives me



**(left)** Spc. Shaun O'Brien, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, tackles the 'weaver'.

**(right)** Spc. Steven McBryde, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, completes jumps over the 'six vaults'. **(far right)** Sgt. Adler

Ladewig, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, performs the 'low belly over' obstacle.



*Pvt. 1 James Noonan, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery, finishes up on the 'weaver' and his last station.*

*Photos by Sgt. Beverly Fortner, 105th MPAD*

more tools for when we get in country."

"The goal is to prepare soldiers to go to the Air Assault School and to complete the mission in the Horn of Africa," said Sherrill. "Any time soldiers are training in skill sets that they are not used to employing, it broadens their horizons and makes the team better and stronger. The completion of this training will be an opportunity for soldiers to attend a school that field artillery units are not normally able to go to. This is an opportunity for soldiers to show the unit they are mature soldiers and they have what it takes to go to the Air Assault School and complete it."

Soldiers who are interested in being part of the specialized platoon should talk to their chain-of-command and their readiness non commissioned officers prior to contacting the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery headquarters.



# Transitioning takes time

*Story by Spc. Celia Prince, 226<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company,  
Unit Public Affairs Representative*

**T**ransitioning may be one of the hardest things a person has to do in their life. With the change come trials, struggles, delays and most importantly shifting focus.

For the enlisted, learning how to balance jobsites, organizing tasks for troops in the platoon and juggling schedules can be quite an undertaking. In fact, as an enlisted Soldier, it's sometimes difficult to grasp how anyone else's job could pose a bigger challenge. As a Soldier that is a part of the training; we learn to adapt and overcome in many ways (and areas of our lives) and even see things we didn't see before.

Often, our personal lives are just as impacted as our military lives. The choices we make are not always clearly visible in the path we take in life until retrospect is applied. Such was the case for 1st Lt. Kraig Buffington and newly-promoted Capt. Zachary Kittle, who were formerly platoon leaders, leading Soldiers in individual projects. Now as executive officers (XO's) for the 226<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company deployed to Afghanistan, their focus has changed immensely.

Both who have degrees in construction science and management attended Kansas State University. Little did they expect to transition from their civilian jobs as subject-matter-experts in logistics and horizontal (Buffington) and mechanical, electrical and plumbing (Kittle) to the XO's in charge of a vertical unit deploying to Afghanistan.

When transitioning from Platoon Leader to XO the shift in the focus from taking care of Soldiers to the overall mission of manpower can be demanding. No longer is the primary concern the individual involved but of projects, future projects and personnel. As well as seeing who works best where; more or less, fitting the projects to the platoons.

For example, a mission to relocate and construct guard towers was scheduled to begin in early March, while deciding who would best be suited for the mission, the XO's said they knew that was exactly the job 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon had been completing while stationed on another Forward Operating Base (FOB). Since they would be arriving by that time and would need a project, Buffington said "it just made sense" for them to

be on that mission. Then there are jobsites that take a little more decision making to figure out who's right for the project. Staff Sgt. Jason Christian, 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon squad leader, new to construction projects, was said to fit well to the interior work of the Public Affair Office jobsite due to his outstanding leadership. His ability to motivate and lead had a hand in him later being moved to the 600 Block (a major project for Seabee housing) for a period of time.

"[We're] transitioning from platoon leaders to XO's, not focusing on Soldiers as before, but the whole overall mission of manpower; projects, future projects and personnel," Buffington said of his new position.

Although the 226<sup>th</sup> hasn't been in country long, many responsibilities have fallen in their laps since taking on their new positions. During their deployment they will be in charge of overseeing projects that are meant to build up and expand FOB Sharana. There are many ongoing projects currently that they gather daily progress reports from on and off the FOB to turn around and report back to the battalion and brigade.

"Everyone is getting better at this." Buffington said, "Platoons have an idea of what they can accomplish. We come up with a realistic schedule that we work with the platoon leaders for completion of the project and then just maintain 'quality control.'"

Of all the factors involved, overseeing a vertical company's material for missions is the biggest aspect and setback; it impacts the mission more than anything. Completion of the Seabee housing project, known as the 600 Block, has been delayed due to lack of material. The system doesn't know priorities and because amount of supplies needed bogs up the system. we sometimes have to wait longer than would be preferred. As well as the fact that it isn't coming from one location, not to mention that we aren't the only (FOB) expanding.

Many of the jobs completed on the FOB are large scale and require outside help from civilian contractors. One of the benefits of working construction on the civilian side Buffington said that having a degree in construction taught him a lot about how to treat civilian contractors and what to expect from them when working alongside them. And, he said that when it comes to building for the Army with civilians "it helps knowing civilian ways when working an Army job with civilian contractors."

# Law Camp

Story and photos by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

What do you get when you mix Lake Afton near Wichita, Kan., with a bunch of young people at risk, between the ages of 11 and 15, the Kansas Crime Commission, the Kansas National Guard, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Kansas Fish and Game, the Boy Scouts, Koch Industries, the Sedgwick County Sheriff, EMS and fire departments and numerous other partner agencies, with four days of camping in Army tents and learning about team building?

You get the Sedgwick County Sheriff's 'Law Camp'—an annual event begun in 1994, and having distinguished itself as one of the most successful youth related programs initiated in the Midwest.

"Each year nearly 150 young people that have been identified as 'at risk' (children that may turn to crime, drugs, alcohol, violence, etc.) participate in the camp's activities that include a variety of outdoor events to include swimming, boating, hiking, wall climbing and fishing," says Maj. Michael Oliver of the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office, who has been at Law Camp for the past two years.

"I like to talk about our success stories," he said. "We've had some great successes with getting the youth on the right track, many have entered the military and we even have a graduate that is attending the Air Force Academy—now that's full circle, isn't it?"

Retired Kansas Army National Guard Soldier, Sgt. 1st Class James Finneran says he's had lots of fun working with the children the last 15 years.

"The activities—many of which these youths are doing for the first time—are created to teach them team-building. They learn self-confidence and have a sense of achievement," says Finneran.

"I like watching them as they struggle through a task and after working it for a while, watch their eyes light up with an epiphany of what the task meant. They learn, and find self-dependence—that they are worth something to society, humanity, and most definitely, themselves," said Finneran.

Lt. Brenda Dietzman of the Sheriff's Office has been a long-time volunteer and squad leader for the camp. She has fond memories of the youth that's she's been in charge of.

Each evening the youngsters, most of who have never camped out, gather around a bonfire and hear messages about how to avoid gangs, how drugs destroy lives and much more. Bonding between the young campers and their law enforcement mentors is a tremendous thing to observe, according to Dietzman.



Since the camp is around a lake, and includes lots of water activities, there is usually a team that turns to the 'pirates' motif.



The youth watch numerous demonstrations during the camp. They even take time to learn about dog handling and how canines assist law enforcement with saving human lives in case of local, state and national disasters.

**See LAW CAMP, Page 9**



**Left**—Finding their balance for the youth is one of the main themes to the Law Camp, however, some campers have found out first hand, that without the balance, they tend to tip the canoe.

**Below**—Fire hoses wet down contestants to see how fast they can don the fire suit. Teamwork proved valuable in the exercise as team members figure out they had to help each other.



**Below**—The display showing National Guard and Law Enforcement's teamwork for Law Camp.



## From LAW CAMP, Page 8

"I remember once when it was dark one night and we were leaving the campfire area, when suddenly one of the young girls paused to look up into the night sky and was startled. She never saw the Milky Way before and she thought the sky was ripping apart," said Dietzman.

Camper's opinions change. There are surveys given to the campers before the camp starts, then again after the camp is over. They learn that law enforcement exists to help the people, and that the camp is not just a camp for kids in trouble, but a camp for kids that want to grow and learn. Youth that are Eagle Scouts mingle with those that have troubled lives, and they learn from each other about other paths that can be followed in life.

Camp leaders want to point out that without Committee chair, Bill Ard, Sedgwick County Commissioners support, or the support of Tom Devlin and Koch Industries, the camp could not be successful.

"The kids are permitted to keep their t-shirts and hat and are encouraged to wear them in their neighborhoods," said Dietzman.

The kids are also encouraged to become future staffers and committee members for upcoming generations of campers, which many of them do.

"I want to be in charge of the canoe exercises in the future," said one bashful camper who didn't want


named.

"I learned that you need a lot of balance to canoe, or you fall—and that's what this camp is all about—finding your balance so you won't fall. It's important, and I've learned a lot. I want to help others find their balance in life."

# Through the lens...

Through the lens is a photo compilation of shots by Soldiers on deployments. This month's compilation is by Sgt. Adam Cloyd who is currently deployed to Afghanistan with an agricultural team of Kansas Soldiers.

Over the course of the next several months, the Kansas Sentinel will feature some of his favorite photographs depicting Afghan life and the deployment of the Agribusiness Development Team 2.



Staff Sgt. Harold Wespe scans the bleak horizon of the foothills of the Himalayan Mountains while on patrol in Afghanistan.

*Photos by Sgt. Adam Cloyd, Agribusiness Development Team 2*

*Graphic Layout by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD*



**Above:** The harsh life of Afghanistan shows in the faces of two Afghan women.

**Left:** Youthful optimism is reflected in the eyes of an Afghan girl.

**Right:** An Afghan youth holds a mock pistol.



**Below left:** Staff Sgt. William Warner taking a moment's rest while on a dismounted patrol in Laghman Province, Afghanistan.



**Below right:** Spring snow melt runs through a local valley turning the landscape green, even if only for a short time.



# Mom follows son's footsteps

Story by Spc. Celia Prince, 226<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company,  
Unit Public Affairs Representative

Jacob Daniels joined for the college money. He was only 17 when he signed the papers in November, right after his birthday. He knew that he really wanted to be a part of the military and couldn't be shaken in his decision. Mom, Laura, and Dad, Roger, didn't agree; didn't know if their son was ready for a drastic lifestyle change.

"He was too young, I wasn't ready to let go of my son," Laura said about her son's choice to enlist.

The papers were already signed and hands shook when the information that would forever change the Daniels' life was told. Minutes after he signed, Jacob and his mom found out that he was leaving within two days of school dismissing. "There goes his summer," his time to be a kid before taking off, Laura said.

Whereas Mom and Dad were coming to a place of acceptance and allowing Jacob to spread his wings to fly, Jacob was sure that this was just the kind of structure he was looking for. He knew this would be good for himself, even if he couldn't see the entire road before him. As the time approached, Laura could see that this was a godsend and that her son was doing exactly what was right for him.

Nine weeks later, graduation day came and the whole family came to see Jacob march across the huge expanse of lawn. In their own words, Laura and Jacob replayed back the day as if it were yesterday.

"I was so proud; my heart was so full of admiration," Laura gushed. "When his Dad and I saw him, we're so full of pride. As my family and I watched the troops cross our paths in the ceremonial march to graduate, my exact thoughts were 'so many young people; we were sending such young people, why weren't we sending more people like me who have more experience, are more mature to handle what's going on?'"

"As I witnessed the transformation of Jacob and took in the magnitude of what he had chosen to do, I was inspired. That day Jacob was my hero, and I knew deep within what I was to do; I would enlist. I

***"That day Jacob was my hero, and I knew deep within what I was to do; I would enlist. I was so excited to tell Jacob my news."***



(above photo, from left) Laura Daniels and her son, Jacob Daniels, sport their 226th Engineer Battalion, Operation Enduring Freedom sweatshirts that commemorates their deployment together in Afghanistan.

Photo provided

was so excited to tell Jacob my news."

"Nah, that's not a good idea," Jacob cut in recounting the memory.

"So, I went to someone else to be recruited and, as I sat before the same recruiter who enlisted my son, his face dropped as he heard me say, 'No, I'm serious, I want to sign up.' It was hilarious," Laura said.

Learning how to be a Soldier was hard due to "being set in my ways because of my age," Laura admitted. The physical challenges were tough and training everyday was emotionally taxing, but for her, being away from her family was the worst. She said it was a major adjustment going from being a stay at home mom for 21 years to four kids to barely being allowed a phone call a week home. "I had a lot of obstacles to overcome just to join, quite a bit of weight to lose and I knew I was at a physical disadvantage; I wasn't young like the others. But, the leadership made a huge impact on me and I knew that I could make it," Laura said.

"I thought it would be hard for her, but I believed

*(Continued on page 13)*

*(Continued from page 12)*

that she would pass with flying colors, Jacob said as he smiled.

“Are you making this stuff up?” Laura asked Jacob before he could continue.

“No, I really believed that. I was in college when she went to basic, so it didn’t really seem like she was gone,” Jacob shared. “It was exciting and emotional, but it was also cool that she did it and now we have something to share that no one else can share in our family.”

“That’s what I thought too,” Laura beamed. “Do you know what it’s like to see you of all people first? You don’t see any of your family while you’re gone – my graduation day, one of my drill sergeants was yelling to make a show as he was releasing us and Jacob came up to me, put his arm around me and said, ‘C’mon Mom, let’s go,’ grabbed my bag and took me to where everyone else was at. It was good to see family. When my husband hugged me, it was a relief, a reconnecting.”

Laura, a plumber and Jacob, a heavy equipment operator returned home to their respective units and began their lives as newly trained and prepared Soldiers. However, with all the training, the day Laura walked into her unit to her first drill, nothing now could prepare her for the news she was given. Laura shared her heart with Jacob as they remember yet another life-changing moment.

“You’re deploying to Afghanistan,” Laura said her first lieutenant told her when he pulled her into the office.

“I broke into tears, I’m sure he thought I was crazy. I was sad because I was going to miss so much, my daughter going off to college” ... she trailed off then continued, “I just got back from technical school. It was a shock to the system – I had already missed so many family events and now I would miss more,” Laura explained.

August rolled around and, Jacob who was already scheduled to deploy, too, found out his mission to Iraq had been cancelled. After thinking it out, he decided that he would volunteer to deploy with his mom’s unit.

“It would be a bonus to be with mom overseas,” he said and “I was already in the mindset that I was going to deploy.”

“It was a relief to Roger to know we’d be in the same country, let alone the same platoon. Is it hard to be in the same platoon with me?” Laura interrupted.

“No, its fine, Mom” Jacob answered.

“I know he (Roger) has concerns; he is struggling with us being away ... because we’re the life of the party,” Laura giggled.

“Yeah!” Jacob said as they high fived.

“He says it’s awfully quiet,” Laura says to Jacob and then looks over, “but our whole family is very supportive of our decision.”

“I love my mom, being around my mom everyday is definitely an experience that not everyone can share with me,” Jacob said as he looked at his mom. “Five more months and we’ll be home (Laura nods her head with a twinkle in her eye).”

“Some days are better than others,” Laura concludes, “but of all people that are here, I think my son is my hero, and I really truly feel that way and, that is why I am here.”

### **Kansas City Armory Reunion planned**

It's that time again for the annual Kansas City Armory Reunion. Everyone who was ever stationed at the "18th Street Armory" is invited.

This year the event will be held on 5 Nov. It will start at 6 pm with a social hour and then followed by a Bar-B-Que dinner provided by Snead's. Beer and other drinks will be provided.

The cost will still be \$5.00 per person and the Citizen's Military Committee will pick up the remainder. It's the cheapest dinner in town that night and there is always plenty.

We will have memorials for KC veterans (and spouses) who have departed since our last reunion. Capt. McDuff plans to set up a history table of the 137th Infantry. A similar table for the 169th Support Battalion would be very much welcome. Remember when KC was an armory that supported two battalion HQs at the same time??

You can now sign up. Just email me back and let me know who you will be bringing. I have launched a Facebook page to hopefully find some more of our veterans out there who may not even know about this event after all these years.

My email address is [stephen.gfeller@att.net](mailto:stephen.gfeller@att.net)

## Hyatt retires after 34 years of military service



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Patrick Hyatt retired from the Army National Guard on July 31, 2010 after 34 years of military service. He enlisted on Nov. 9, 1976 in the United States Marine Corps. Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson, commanding general of the 35th Infantry Division, presented him with the Meritorious Service Medal on July 18, 2010.

Hyatt served in the United States Marine Corps from 1976-1998. In 1998 he transitioned into the Kansas Army National Guard. He has always been active in military chapel ministry during his career. His wife, Elizabeth is pictured here with him, accepting a plaque recognizing her support. Their three children; James, Victoria and David also attended his retirement ceremony.

## Johnson served the Guard since 1987

Sgt. 1st Class Donald G. Johnson celebrates his retirement from the Kansas Army National Guard with Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson, commander of the 35th Infantry Division.

Johnson served in the United States Army, as well as various positions in the Kansas Army National Guard since 1987. He received the Meritorious Service Medal on July 18, 2010 at his retirement ceremony.

His wife, Susan, was honored at the ceremony for her support during his military career.

The Johnsons have three daughters: Donnille, Erin and April



## Jackson and mother receives awards



Sgt. 1st Class Richard E. Jackson, 35th Infantry Division Executive Administrative Assistant, Kansas Army National Guard, received the Meritorious Service Medal from Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson, commanding general of the 35th Infantry Division, during his retirement ceremony on July 18, 2010.

Jackson served from Oct. 18, 1983 to June 30, 2010 in multiple positions of responsibility in the United States Army and the Kansas Army National Guard. Numerous family members and friends attended his retirement ceremony including his mother, Mrs. Mary Gertrude Louise Jackson.

She received the Madonna of the Trail Plaque recognizing her support of her son's military career throughout the years.

# Hannan awarded two medals

## ***Retired with 32 years of service—***

Col. Lawrence C. Hannan was honored with a retirement ceremony on July 21, 2010, at the Joint Force Headquarters in Topeka, Kan.

Hannan retired after more than 32 years of service to the country and had just completed a dual position of assistant chief of staff, and that of director of logistics for Joint Force Headquarters, Kansas-Land Component, Kansas National Guard.

Kansas Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting, awarded Hannan with a Legion of Merit and the Kansas National Guard Distinguished Service Medal.

“Colonel Hannan’s leadership, guidance and mentorship set the standard for all to emulate,” said Bunting.

“His outstanding performance and unwavering dedication to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit on him,” Bunting said.

Hannan was also awarded certificates from the President of the United States, and the Governor of Kansas.

Mrs. Laura Hannan was also awarded a Department of the Army Certificate of Appreciation from General George W. Casey, the United States Army Chief of



*Kansas Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting awarded the Legion of Merit and the Kansas National Guard Distinguished Service Medal to Hannan for his level of performance and dedication to the Kansas Army National Guard.*

Staff for her unselfish, faithful and devoted service during her husband’s career.

Hannan enlisted in the service in 1978 as a construction draftsman in the North Dakota Army National Guard. He has served in numerous positions of increasing responsibility, to include platoon leader, company executive officer, twice a company commander, battalion intelligence and operations officer, executive officer for the 35th Infantry Division, director of movement control for Headquarters, State Area Regional Command, commander of the 174th Ordnance Battalion, assistant chief of staff for logistics, 35th Infantry Division, executive officer for the 635th Regional Support Group and commander for Task Force Gator, 377th Theater Sustainment Command.

His military education includes the Engineer Office Basic Course, Engineer Officer Advance Course, Command and General Staff College, and the United States Army War College.

Hannan’s military awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with six oak leaf cluster and numerous other federal and state ribbons.

He is married to the former Laura Carlin and has four children, Harley Sayles (25), Laurina (17), Luke (15) and Levi (13). They live in Wamego, Kan.

**(Right photo, from left) Luke, Levi, Laura, Laurina and Col. Lawrence Hannan** take a moment to pose for a photo after Col. Hannan’s retirement ceremony. Hannan says the most important part of a Soldier’s life, is his family and their support.



Photos by Maj. Mike Wallace,  
105th MPAD

# Engineers begin 'Harvest Falcon'

*Story and photos by Spc. Celia Prince, 226<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company,  
Unit Public Affairs Representative*

The 226<sup>th</sup> is hard at it again, with two major housing projects under their belts; they are now on a new building mission, the Harvest Falcon (HF) expansion.

From a distance, the Bon Jovi music can be heard from the five-ton dump truck as 1st Lt. Jason Hulse and Sgt. 1st Class Chris Hargis pull up to their new jobsite. Hargis walks pass the enormous "L" shaped trusses as Hulse explains that this type of truss is the new style currently being used to help construct the massive 40'x90'x128' "L" shaped Tactical Operation Center (TOC). The futuristic building out in the middle of the desert in itself is quite a sight to set the eyes on.

Soldiers are everywhere, in between rafters positioning them, sitting on the side of the wall helping to guide the next truss to its proper location, on the roof preparing to secure the corrugated metal, on ladders nailing soffits and, on the ground measuring or applying pressure as sheeting is hammered into place.

The work day only a third of the way over, for the troops who work days, and lunch all too eager to be eaten, the Soldiers meet and greet their leadership as they do their daily walk-through to inspect the progress made. One Soldier stops Hargis to discuss how the placement of the "unusual trusses" had been working out. They look up as they spoke, pointing out the troops setting the next truss, agreeing that "it's not as awkward to work with," as once thought it would be.

With Harvest Falcon 1 almost complete, the shift in focus has turned to Harvest Falcon 2 with the "L" shape Battalion tactical operations center (TOC) as priority. Hargis is taking on a project like none he's ever tried before. As project manager over the entire Harvest Falcon 2, he sees to the installation of high voltage power grid sup-

plying power to the 112 tents, the 10 LSS (latrine/shower/shave) buildings, and the two combined dining facilities made into one large chow hall for HF 1, 2 and 3 to share.

Harvest Falcon consists of three camps that will house the remaining surge of troops due into FOB Sharana later this summer. 226th personnel, who are overseeing the whole jobsite and coordinating with civilian contractors and the personnel Air Force Technical Advisor Team, are managing two of the camps. Another unit stationed on the Forward Operating Base is constructing the third camp.

Knowing that the units expected to arrive would approach soon, Hargis began a rotation of days and nights, allowing his troops a break from the heat and opportunity to complete the jobsite ahead of deadline.

"It's a lot cooler, the sun isn't beating down on them and it's less windy. Many lights are used to brighten up the western expansion and the best part is that they don't have to compete for equipment during the day," Hargis commented.

The western expansion is designed to accommodate up to 1,100 people. It will provide multiple tactical operating centers for the upper leadership to work out of, as well as a Soldier Center that will bring in a Morale Welfare and Recreation building. The expansion will also include a dining facility, an Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) shopping center, and a bigger gym. It is estimated that the three camps will be completed by the end of August.

**See more photos, Page 17**



*Working late, Spc. Kyler Wellman stays to smooth out the wrinkles of a freshly poured concrete pad.*



## ***Creating something where nothing once was—***

**Above**—Members of 2nd Platoon begin construction for the "L" shaped TOC on Harvest Falcon 2.

**Top right**—Members of 2nd Platoon off load the "unusual" trusses that will be used to construct the "L" shaped TOC on Harvest Falcon 2.

**Right**—Spc. Jake Robinson and Spc. Michael Woods discuss alignment as Spc. Jonathon Hejny waits to nail the truss in place.

**Below**—Members of 1st Platoon take a break from the heat to drink some water before they continue to cover the "L" shaped alternate tactical operations center with corrugated metal.



**Above**—An outer view shows the progress of the "L" shaped tactical operations center. As shifts are rotated working both days and night, the HF 2 component is said to be completed by the end of August.



# DAVOREN ASSUMES COMMAND OF THE 35TH INFANTRY DIVISION

*Pierson hands over Division colors—  
says Division in good hands as he retires*

*By Sgt. Heather Wright, 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Public Affairs*

Leadership and representatives from the Kansas and Missouri Army National Guard community gathered at Fort Leavenworth's parade field Saturday, Aug 28 to witness the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's (ID) change of command ceremony.

Outgoing 35<sup>th</sup> ID Commander, Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson handed over Division reins to Maj. Gen. John E. Davoren, who most recently served as Assistant Adjutant General –Army and Commander of the Kansas Army National Guard.

"I am honored to be the next commander of the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division," said Davoren. "The unit performed in an outstanding manner during the Kosovo deployment and the leaders and soldiers have continued to build on that success while accomplishing all missions through the last two years. I know that we will do well with the challenges ahead of us."

Davoren was commissioned in 1976 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of Kansas at Lawrence. After completion of the Infantry Officer Basic Course and Ranger training, he served as a rifle platoon leader, Company A, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii and executive officer, 1<sup>st</sup> Aviation Battalion at Fort Riley, Kan.

Since joining the Kansas Army National Guard Davoren's assignments have included command at the company, battalion and brigade level as well as deputy commanding general of the 35<sup>th</sup> ID.

Davoren received his bachelor of science in business accounting from the University of Kansas, a master's degree in personnel management from Central Michigan University and a second master's degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Davoren and his wife Debra live in Lansing, Kan. They have two children, daughter Jennifer of Houston, Texas and son Kyle of Colorado Springs, Colo.

Pierson is sad to leave the military after 39 years of service, but knows the 35<sup>th</sup> ID is in good hands.

"It has been an honor to serve as the commander of the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division," said Pierson. "I am proud of what we have accomplished and the high standards of performance these Soldiers have attained. I know that the Maj. Gen. Davoren and the Soldiers of the 35<sup>th</sup> will continue to carry on this tradition."

**Continued on Page 19**

*Capt. Mark Mullinax and Sgt. Rich Smith bring roses to the wives of the incoming and outgoing commanders of the 35th Infantry Division during a change of command ceremony Saturday, Aug. 28.*

*Photo: Sgt. Heather Wright, 35th ID Public Affairs*



*Maj. Gen. John E. Davoren receives the 35th Infantry Division flag from Kansas Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Todd Bunting as he officially takes command of the 35th ID Saturday Aug. 28.*

*Photo by Sgt. Heather Wright,  
35th ID Public Affairs*





**(left photo, from right)**—Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson, outgoing Commander of the 35th Infantry Division (ID), hands the 35th ID flag to Kansas Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting in a change of command ceremony Saturday Aug. 28. **(right photo)**—Margaret Pierson, wife of Maj Gen. M. Wayne Pierson, outgoing commander of the 35th Infantry Division, receives flowers as thanks for her hard work in a change of command ceremony Saturday, Aug. 28.

Photos by  
Sgt. Heather Wright,  
35th ID Public Affairs



## Continued from page 18

Pierson is looking forward to traveling and spending more time with his family and perfecting his wood-working skills. He will also continue working for his civilian employer, Energizer Battery Company, for two more years.

### ***Farewell Message from Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson***

As my time with the 35th Infantry Division draws to a close, I wanted to make a few final comments to the incredible Soldiers of this great Division. It has truly been an honor and a privilege for me to serve as the commander of the Division for the past three and a half years. During this time, we have faced many challenges that have tested our mental, physical, and emotional endurance. Despite these challenges, we have accomplished each of the missions placed before us. As a result of the work we have done together, I know that we are better and more prepared today to handle any mission that may come our way. Your devotion, tenacity, and technical knowledge are the foundation on which we have built our success and will be what carries this Division far into the future.

Each of you has contributed your time and effort to the accomplishments of the Division. I have said many times that I am proud of this Division and all that it stands for and I am deeply honored to have served as your commander. To those with whom I have worked for many years, I find it difficult to put into words what your friendship has meant to me. To those of you new to the Division, you have been assigned to a unit with a long tradition of excellent performance. Few commanders have had the privilege to work with such a professional group of officers and noncommissioned officers. Thank you for your friendship and service. Sante Fe!

*Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson*



*Maj. Gen.  
M. Wayne Pierson*

# Division command was “best experience of my entire career”

**M**aj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson, commanding general of the 35th Infantry Division, Kansas Army National Guard, passed the division colors to a new commander Aug. 28, closing a long and distinguished career of dedication and service to the National Guard.

Pierson’s 39-year military career will come to an end, but his mark on the division, where he spent more than 14 years of his military service, will endure.

“The best experience of my entire career was to be commander of the 35th Infantry Division,” Pierson said. “It has been an honor to command the 35th over the past three years and nine months. As the commander, I have had the distinct privilege of serving with some of the best officers and noncommissioned officers the Guard has to offer.”

Under Pierson’s leadership, the 35th Infantry Division has taken the lead on several important National Guard missions and training events, including a year-long deployment to Kosovo; a successful overseas deployment for training to South Korea in support of Operation Key Resolve with just over two months notice and fielding of the Army’s Battle Command (ABC) Systems, making the division the first National Guard division to be fully fielded ABCS. During his command, the division also assumed responsibility for designing one of the first two Domestic All-Hazards Response Teams (DART) in the National Guard.

“We have been tasked with numerous missions, some with very short response times, and some, like DART, that we essentially developed from concept to implementation,” Pierson said. “But no matter the mission, when I asked this division staff to respond, they did, and with 110 percent effort and commitment to mission success. I am proud of everyone in the division for their work over the last three and a half years. It has been that commitment and dedication that has put us out in front of other divisions. I am proud to have been a part of the work that we have done here and proud to have worked with so many outstanding young Soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and officers.”

Pierson is quick to credit the Soldiers who work for him for his success as a commander. He says



*Maj. Gen. M. Wayne Pierson talks about his 39-year military career and the 14 years he spent at the 35th Infantry Division. He said his inspiration was his exposure to great non-commissioned officers and commissioned officer.*

*Photo provided*

his interaction with other officers and noncommissioned officers throughout his career is what motivated him to be a leader.

“What has always inspired me most was my exposure to great noncommissioned officers and officers early in my career,” Pierson said. “I learned many things from them, but most importantly, I learned their philosophy that to succeed at any mission, you first have to take care of Soldiers. You have to set Soldiers up for success by giving them the training and tools they need.”

Pierson said he has always been impressed by the opportunity senior leaders have to affect the lives of the young troops coming after them.

**See BEST EXPERIENCE, Page 21**

## From BEST EXPERIENCE, Page 21

“As a young Soldier just getting in the military, I don’t know that I had a goal other than just wanting to serve my country,” Pierson said. “However, as time went on, I saw the opportunity that officers and senior noncommissioned officers had to affect the lives and development of our young Soldiers. To me, there’s nothing more satisfying than to watch a young noncommissioned officer or officer develop as a leader.”

Families have always played an important role in Pierson’s career, both his own family and the families of the service members who have worked for him.

“Taking care of Soldiers also means taking care of their families,” Pierson said. “People that serve with me understand that my first priority is always Soldiers and their families.”

“No Soldier is successful in the military without a supportive spouse or family,” Pierson said. “I’ve been so very fortunate. If you look over my career, I could never have accomplished what I have without the support of my wife and family.”

He admits that time away from family is a major sacrifice asked of every Soldier serving their country.

“I think what I regret most was what I missed with my wife and children. I can never go back and make that up,” Pierson said. “Yet, you have to balance that with your love of country. Thank God we have families that understand that and we have people, like my wife, who love this country and who know how important it is to support the Soldiers and their families who help us keep our freedom.”

“There was never one thing or one person that made me stay in for 39 years,” said Pierson, reflecting on the longevity of his career.” It was a privilege every day I got to put on this uniform and work alongside these quality young men and women serving today in our effort to keep this country free.”

Following his military retirement, Pierson said he looks forward to traveling and spending more time with his wife, Margaret, and his family, as well as perfecting his woodworking skills. He will also continue working for his civilian employer,

Energizer Battery Company, for two more years.

“I don’t know that my wife would know what to do with me if I was suddenly underfoot all the time,” Pierson laughed.

Pierson and his wife live in Maryville, Mo. They have four children: a daughter, Leslie, and her husband, Terry Henry; daughters Kellie and Emily, and a son, Gregory and his wife, Kassie. He also has three grandchildren Kinsey, Corey, and Colby.

Pierson graduated from Northwest Missouri State University with a bachelor of science and agriculture in 1972. He began his military career as an enlisted signalman. He completed the Missouri National Guard’s Officer Candidate School (OCS) in 1974 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Signal Corps.

His assignments include platoon leader, 435th Signal Company; commander, Company A, 937th Signal Battalion; systems control officer, 135th Signal Battalion; communications-electronics officer, 135th Field Artillery Brigade; intelligence/operations officer, 135th Signal Battalion; division communication-electronics officer, 135th Signal Battalion, 35th Infantry Division; commander, 135th Signal Battalion; executive officer, 35th Division Support Command, 35th Infantry Division; commander, 35th Division Support Command, 35th Infantry Division; assistant division commander (Support), 35th Infantry Division (Mechanized); Assistant Adjutant General-Army, Joint Force Headquarters, Missouri National Guard.

Pierson’s education includes Signal Officer Basic and Advance courses; Electronic Warfare; Support Operations; Command and General Staff College; and the U.S. Army War College. He also earned a master’s degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College.

### TRICARE available to younger retirees

For the first time, members of the Retired Reserve who are not yet age 60, the so-called “gray area” retirees, can purchase TRICARE health coverage for themselves and their eligible family members with the Sept. 1, 2010 launch of TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR),

To learn more about this program, access the website at: <http://www.tricare.mil/mediacenter/news.aspx?fid=656>

# Officer Candidate School Graduates new officers



*By Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD*

The Officer Candidate School (OCS) graduation and commissioning ceremonies was held Saturday, Aug. 14, at the Great Plains Joint Training Center (Kansas Regional Training Institute), Salina, Kan.

Thirteen Kansas National Guard officer candidates received their commission: Ronny O. Adorno, Riley; Matthew J. Ayers, Wichita; Cameron C. Crenshaw, Larned; William J. Gardenhire, Lawrence; Lynette M. Ham, Wichita; Erin M. Kelley, Meriden; Louis S. Latimer, Kechi; Benjamin P. Moore, Augusta; Samuel Ornelas, Manhattan; Edward V. Raschen, Coffeyville; Georgia S. Schafer, Winchester; and Matthew R. Williams, Topeka.

**See OCS, Page 23**

**(Top photo)** The graduating class of OCS Class 54 and 54-501 accept their commissions and take the Oath of Office.

**(Right photo)** 2nd Lt. Ronny O. Adorno has his new 'butter bars' attached to his uniform by his wife, Angie, and his daughter, Adriana.

Photos by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD



## From OCS, Page 22

Ayers and Gardenhire were not present at the ceremony due to other commitments.

Officer Candidate Tyson C. Winingham, Wichita, will receive his commission at a later date.

The official party that administered the Oaths of Office and handed out the diplomas consisted of Kansas Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting; Commander designate for the 35th Infantry Division, Brig. Gen. John Davoren; Great Plains Joint Training center commander, Brig. Gen. Norman Steen; 235th Training Regiment commander, Col. Robert Windham; 1st Battalion (OCS), 235th Regiment commander, Lt. Col. Judith Martin.

Bunting was the guest speaker at the graduation.

"This class is the future of leadership in the Kansas Army National Guard," Bunting said.

"I have no doubt of their ability, as they are graduates of this program," he said, referring to the OCS program in Salina.

"I want to thank them and their families for their sacrifices to complete this program."

Bunting said the last brave thing each of the candidates would do was take the Oath of Office.

"Everything after that," he said, "is your job."

"It's unprecedented until now, that no one serving in the military today, that has voluntarily served during a time of war.

We go where no one else wants to go. These are hard places because if it was pleasant where we go, well, that's vacation."

Bunting reminded the new officers that their commission lasts a lifetime. "There is no end to tenure in this job," he said. "If you retire, I consider

that a retainer fee, not a retirement check, and you may be called upon again."

Bunting talked about the hard training and the lessons learned at the school.

"You will remember your training officer all of your life—I still remember mine—she still scares me to death! But the training they've given you will always follow you wherever you go. It's good training and valuable learning that most people never get."

After Bunting's speech several awards were

given to candidates that have shown outstanding achievements.

### **The Noble W. Drake Academic Achievement**

**Award:** For highest academic average during the course. Highest average for OCS Class 54 was **92.6 percent** by Candidate **Georgia Schafer**.

### **The Physical Fitness**

**Award:** For highest average on Army physical fitness tests while at course. Highest average for OCS Class 54 was **300 points** by Candidate **Benjamin Moore**.

### **The Tactical Proficiency**

**Award:** Given to those that demonstrated the most tactical proficiency and leadership ability during Phase III field training at Ft. Lewis, Wash. This was awarded to

Candidate **Benjamin Moore**.

### **The Erikson Distinguished Graduate Award:**

Awarded to the candidate who achieved the highest combined overall score in the OCS program. This individual does not necessarily have the highest score in any one area, but consistently scores highly in all areas of assessment. This was awarded to Candidate **Georgia Schafer**.

**The Oath of Office**  
*I (Name and military branch)  
do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I  
will support and defend the  
Constitution of the United States and  
the Constitution of the State of Kansas  
against all enemies, foreign and  
domestic. That I will bear true faith  
and allegiance to the same. That I will  
obey the orders of the President of the  
United States and the Governor of the  
State of Kansas. That I make this  
obligation freely without any mental  
reservation or purpose of evasion, and  
that I will and faithfully discharge the  
duties of the Office of Second  
Lieutenant in the Army National  
Guard of the State of Kansas upon  
which I am about to enter.  
So help me God.*

See OCS, Page 24



### ***Meet the new Lieutenants—***

**(Top photo, from left)** All new second lieutenants in the Kansas Army National Guard. 2nd Lt. Matthew Williams; 2nd Lt. Ronny Adorno; 2nd Lt. Erin Kelley; 2nd Lt. Benjamin Moore; 2nd Lt. Edward Raschen; 2nd Lt. Georgia Schafer; 2nd Lt. Cameron Crenshaw; 2nd Lt. Lynette Ham; Sgt. Tyson Winingham (who will take his commission later) and 2nd Lt. Louis Latimer.

**(Lower photo, from left)** The official party consisted of Kansas Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting; Commander designate for the 35th Infantry Division, Brig. Gen. John Davoren; Great Plains Joint Training center commander, Brig. Gen. Norman Steen; 235th Training Regiment commander, Col. Robert Windham; 1st Battalion (OCS), 235th Regiment commander, Lt. Col. Judith Martin.



### **From OCS, Page 22**

#### **The Association of the United States Army Leadership Award:**

Awarded to the candidate who achieved highest score in leadership during course. Leadership scores are determined by the instructors using the Leadership Assessment Program, which includes 16 evaluated areas called 'Leadership Dimensions'. They are: oral communications; written communications; oral presentation; initiative; sensitivity; influence; planning and organizing; delegation; administrative control; problem analysis; judgment; decisiveness; technical competence; physical and mental stamina; followership and mission accomplishment. This was awarded to Candidate **Edward Raschen**.

**The Distinguished Accelerated Candidate Award:** Awarded to the candidate who is a member of the accelerated program who, according to the school's cadres, most exemplifies the qualities of a professional junior Army officer. Academics, physical fitness and leadership are all factored into this award. This was awarded to candidate **Matthew Williams**.

**The National Guard Association of Kansas Award:** Awarded to the candidate who, according to the school cadre, displays the leadership; integrity; knowledge; dedication to duty; military bearing and appearance; communications skills and attitude desired in an Army officer. The recipient must possess and display the highest standards and characteristics of a leader. This was awarded to candidate **Benjamin Moore**.

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**(Left photo)** New 2nd Lt. Georgia Schafer receives her first salute as a commissioned officer from Sgt. Theresa Maria Conchita Alfonso Garza. Schafer then presents Garza **(lower middle photo)** with the traditional silver dollar for the first salute. **(right photo)** Kaylee Kelley (2), daughter of candidate Erin and Charlene Kelley and granddaughter of Command Sgt. Maj. Steven and Donna Swan, shows her patriotism with the American flag.



**(lower photo)** Sgt. Sylvia Klingbeil was one of the many 35th Infantry Division band members that performed for the ceremony.

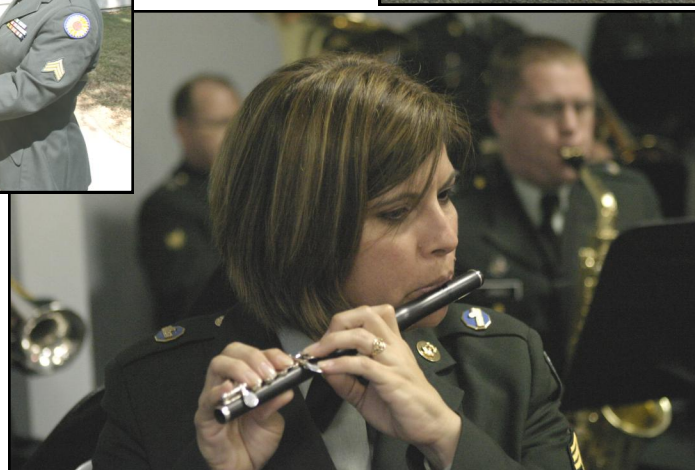


## From OCS, Page 24

Each graduate received a National Guard Association of Kansas membership for the first year. This was presented by Lt. Col. Chris Zielke. They also received a complimentary year's membership to the Military Officers Association, presented by retired Brig. Gen. Ronald Tincher and retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Delbert Hill.

Pride for the new officers was evident by the leadership. Steen said that there is no greater trust committed to the new officers than the responsibility the State's leadership entrusts to these graduating candidates with their commission.

Windham pointed out that after 54 years of the State commissioning new officers, the program is not easier—it is harder.



## *The next class gets instruction—*

*Capt. Robert Melton gives the junior OCS class further instruction of their duties during the senior class's graduation ceremony.*

"This is not watered down," he said. "This process is just as tough to get through and graduate as it ever has been. Never before have lieutenants been asked to do so much as they are today. They are better trained and I'm confident that they can meet the challenges."

Capt. Robert Melton, the Kansas OCS company commander, who was the master of ceremonies for the event shared Windham's opinion.

"After all these years, 1,547 Kansas National Guard and Army Reserve Officers have started their careers with this formal ceremony, and many have served with distinction in command positions and in combat," he said.

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### ***Proud family members—***

**(Left photo)** 2nd Lt. Louis Latimer gets his new lieutenant bars put on his uniform by his father, retired Navy Captain L. Steve Latimer, and Louis's wife, Amelia..

**(Right photo)** OCS Class president, 2nd Lt. Benjamin Moore receives a salute from his father, Mike while his mother Michelle and his wife Jeni affix his new rank.



### **From OCS, Page 24**

“Many of these areas that Kansas Soldiers have served in have been Vietnam, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Global War on Terrorism, as well as serving selflessly in numerous state emergencies,” Melton said.

“Some of our graduates have also paid a much higher price—those that are missing in action, prisoners of war, or were killed in action during service to their state and nation,” Melton solemnly commented.

### ***History of OCS in Kansas—***

The school does have a lengthy history. The school was chartered by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, to commence in September 1956, with curriculum of 172 hours, conducted at the Topeka Armory on 12 weekends during the year. It was the ninth such school to be established in the United States.

The second year, a two-week annual training period was added and conducted at Camp Base in 1964.

In the fall of 1967, the entire school was transferred to Nickell Barracks Training Center, Kansas Army National Guard, located on the old Schilling Air Force Base, Salina, Kan.

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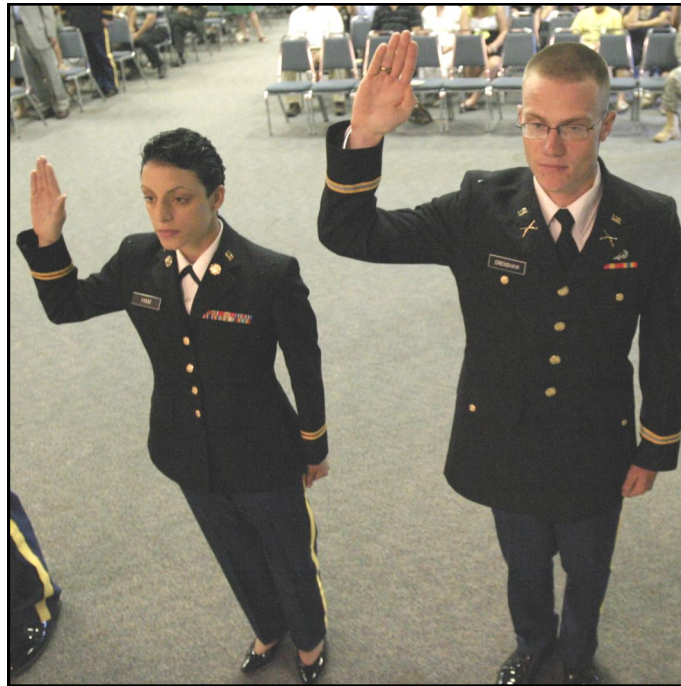
**(Left photo)** 2nd Lt. Matthew Williams receives the Distinguished Accelerated Candidate Award and **(right photo)** 2nd Lt. Edward Raschen earned the Association of the United States Army Leadership Award. They were presented their awards from Kansas Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting.



**(Left photo)** 2nd Lt. Erin Kelley receives his school diploma from Kansas Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting.

**(right photo)** Candidates Lynette Ham and Cameron Crenshaw take the Oath of Office.

Candidates had to complete three phases of training, with more than 900 hours of classroom instruction, field training and physical training to graduate this course. The training was conducted mainly in Kansas, but the final phase was held in Fort Lewis, Wash. The accelerated course was held at Camp Meade, S.D.



## From OCS, Page 24

In 1965, the school was split during the monthly session and conducted at both the Topeka Armory and Hutchinson Air Guard Base, with annual training consolidated at Hutchinson. By this time, a second two-week period had been added to the curriculum, for a total of approximately 400 hours.

Then training center consisted of one combination headquarters/billeting bulking, four barracks, and a 400-man mess hall. On October 1, 1968, 3,536 acres of field training area came under the leased control of the Kansas Army National Guard, approximately seven miles southwest of the training center, on which were located excellent small arms and crew served weapons ranges, an infantry squad/platoon attack course and excellent areas of all types of field training exercises.

The progress and high standards of the Kansas Military Academy were noted in military circles on a local and national level. This recognition resulted in bringing to Kansas an accelerated class of candidates in 1968 due to the call-up of many National Guard units.

Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Texas and Vermont sent their candidates to this accelerated class of instruction and commissioning. Many of the operational techniques employed by Kansas Military Academy were recommended by the National Guard Bureau for adoption by similar type schools in the United States.

The rigid disciplinary and academic standards of the Kansas Army National Guard Military Academy have given the school a national reputation as an outstanding example of the effectiveness of the State, and Officer Candidate School Program. The Kansas Military Academy received the “Doughboy Award” for the highest academic average of all state academies for the school years 1976-77, 1977-78, and 1979-80.

Kansas is one of the 54 state/territory companies of the Army National Guard Officer Candidate School Program and is also one of eight battalion headquarters. The Kansas company has graduated 1,548 Officer Candidates. The Kansas battalion is comprised of state companies from Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. It was recently awarded the Army’s highest accreditation - “**Learning Institution of Excellence**” – a first in its 54-year history.

## Mentor some children

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Topeka is looking for volunteers to mentor children during the school year. They are looking volunteers to read to children one day a week over their lunch hour. For more information visit their website at: [www.topeka.kansasbigs.org](http://www.topeka.kansasbigs.org)

# OCS graduation sees third generation

By Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

During the Kansas Officer Candidate School (OCS) graduation ceremony, the school saw one of the candidates receive their commission and become the third generation in their family to be an officer.

Candidate Georgia Schafer was pinned by her grandfather, retired Col. Ernie Peck and her father, the Chief of the Joint Staff, Col. Eric Peck.

Military history is deep in the Peck family. Col. Eric Peck has a brother, Norman Peck, and sister, Laura Peck who were both in the Kansas National Guard at one time. Norman got out in the 1970's and Laura transferred to the Navy and is retired as a Lieutenant commander. She was the ninth commissioned woman in Kansas and the third woman to graduate OCS. Col. Eric Peck's father-in-law, Sherman Heldenbrand, is a World War II veteran, who served with the Army in the Pacific Theater.

But the granddad wins with time in the service. Retired Col. Ernie Peck joined in 1947 and saw service in the Berlin Airlift Crisis and the Cuban Missile Crisis. He was an instructor during the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Is he proud of his granddaughter? When asked what advice he can give her he said, "she's smart enough to be giving me advice. My wife and I raised a bunch of kids that are pretty darn smart and we are just so proud of them—and of this next generation, too."

Pinning the rank on the newest lieutenant in the family is a tradition that started a long time ago. At one annual training, he took his 17-year-old son, Eric with him, who was pulling mess boy duties. He got a flight in a helicopter and then all he could do was dream of becoming an aviator.

After he enlisted he later went to Warrant Officer School and became a warrant officer. Ernie pinned his old brown warrant officer rank to his son, then did the same for each consecutive rank his son attained.

"I'm all out of the rank now. He made 'full-bird' colonel, so if he ever makes general, he'll have to go out and buy his own star," he said, laughing.

But, grandpa's pride doesn't overshadow the pride of Schafer's father.



Affixing new rank to 2nd Lt. Georgia Schafer (middle) is her grandfather, retired Col. Ernie Peck (left) and her father, the Chief of the Joint Staff, Col. Eric Peck (right).

Photo by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

"I am immensely proud of Georgia for completing OCS and earning recognition for outstanding academic achievement," Col. Eric Peck said.

"It has been a significant challenge for her as she continues to work on her undergraduate degree, work full time and support her family."

The advice that he gave his daughter upon graduation was what he said he would give any

other Soldier—that you have to make up your mind on where you want to be at a given point in your life, usually he and his daughter have discussions about position and accomplishments at retirement.

This allows Soldiers to backward plan from those goals to objectives in their personal, educational and professional spheres. Since each aspect of your life impacts the other aspects it is important to balance these goals and objectives or look for ways that they can be mutually supportive.

He and his daughter had several conversations throughout the course of her OCS program about near term and long term goal setting. It is important to continue to have these conversations to evaluate your progress toward your destination or to adjust your goals as conditions change.

See **GENERATIONS**, Page 35

# Martin speaks at banquet



(Left photo) Retired Col. Henry Martin explains to the OCS Banquet gathering of what is needed to provide legacies to people. (below photo) Martin receives a book from the Senior OCS class. The book was presented by class president, Candidate Benjamin Moore.

Photos by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

By Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

The night before the Officer Candidate School (OCS) graduation ceremonies were held, the senior class, OCS Class #54 hosted an OCS alumni banquet in Salina.

The guest speaker was OCS Class #21 graduate, retired Col. Henry Martin, who spoke to nearly 200 guests attending and giving prudent advice. Norman Keys of OCS Class #3 was the senior representative at the banquet.

“What can I tell these new officers that will be commissioned tomorrow?” he asked. “I think that the main thing is that you must live, love, learn and leave a legacy,” he said.

“In the ‘canvas of your life’, I’ll give you the brush so you can begin painting your legacy, because with your commission, you get to start one right now.”

“You’ve got to be careful not to fall into the pitfalls of the world—one of them being the amount of people and their distribution on the planet. There’s geopolitical organizations, and the world economic process, the effects of new technology, and not enough fresh water that will affect you in the next few decades,” Martin said.

“And what do I mean by the word ‘legacy’? Take each letter from the word and it explains it all.”

“L is for leadership—you have to assume the mantle of leadership now that you will be officers in the military.”

“E is for enthusiasm—you have to show you want to be there while you lead your Soldiers.”

“G is for God—you’ve got to have religious conviction and moral righteousness.”

“A is for attitude. I don’t mean a bad one, but a good one that is always looking for good in people and how to make things work better.”

“C is for Care. You must care for people. I want our leaders to care about you, as you may be sent into harm’s way before long. They should care about you and for your welfare.”

“Y is for youth. As officers, you will be in charge of the youth of our country. I’ve given you my first-born child because I trust you—you need to take care of them and ensure their safety.”

“Remember,” said Martin, “that in life, we are all like footprints in the sand. Just make sure that whatever footprint you leave shows you as a good soul—not a bad heel.”



# Wheeler inducted into Hall of Fame

The Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame induction, was held Saturday, Aug. 14, at the Great Plains Joint Training Center (Kansas Regional Training Institute), Salina, Kan.

This year's Hall of Fame Ceremony honored retired Kansas Army National Guard officer retired Col. David Joe Wheeler. He graduated Officer Candidate School class #20.

Accepting the award with him was his daughter, Heidi. Wheeler laughed as he accepted the award and said, "this is the first time in 36 years that I've stood on this stage and wasn't in uniform."

Wheeler is a very well-known figure in Kansas National Guard circles, and he had some advice for the new officers that had been commissioned earlier that day.

"It's a special privilege to be an officer," he said. "You are expected to demonstrate leadership 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

"You must possess great knowledge and great character, and don't be afraid to find and listen to good non commissioned officers," he told them.

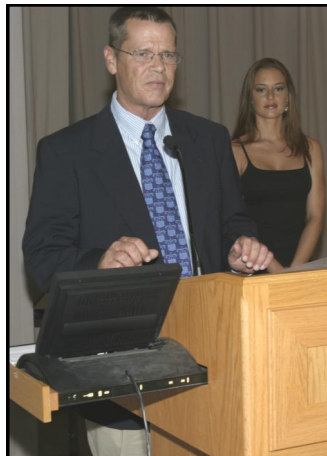
"They have a vast knowledge and are a very important tool that you must utilize very often."

A native of Wichita, retired Col. David Joe Wheeler is a graduate of New York State Regents University, where he earned a bachelor of science degree in business. He also received a master's degree in business administration from Webster University and is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College in Leavenworth, Kan.



(above, from left) 235th Training Regiment commander, Col. Robert Windham presents retired Col. David Joe Wheeler his certificate naming him this year's Hall of Fame inductee. Wheeler was accompanied by his daughter, Heidi. The Commander designate for the 35th Infantry Division, Brig. Gen. John Davoren; Great Plains Joint Training center commander, Brig. Gen. Norman Steen and 1st Battalion (OCS), 235th Regiment commander, Lt. Col. Judith Martin assisted with the presentation. Photos by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD

Wheeler entered the Kansas Army National Guard in 1974, serving with the 891<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion and received his commission in 1976.



Wheeler gives his acceptance speech and advice while daughter Heidi looks on.

Wheeler served in a variety of positions over the years, including platoon leader, company executive officer, personnel staff officer, senior TAC officer, engineer equipment officer, assistant battalion training officer, company commander, battalion commander, intelligence officer, training officer and executive officer. Recent assignments include deputy brigade commander for the 69<sup>th</sup> Troop Command, training officer for Joint Forces Headquarters – Kansas, deputy commander of the Kansas Army National Guard and chief of

staff for the Kansas Army National Guard.

Prior to his retirement, he served as the joint chief of staff for the Kansas National Guard in Topeka, Kan.

**See HALL OF FAME, Page 31**

His military education includes Officer Candidate School; Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses; Command and General Staff College; Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Officers Course; National Security Course; Engineer Pre-Command Course and Tactical Commanders Development Course. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College and also has a masters in Strategic Studies from U.S. Army War College.

Wheeler's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation medal with six oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with four oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Kansas Army National Guard Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster and Kansas Army National Guard Emergency Deployment Service Ribbon with two oak leaf clusters.

Wheeler currently works as a public affairs project officer for the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, a division of the Adjutant General's

Department. Wheeler and his wife, Candace, live in Wichita.



*The 2010 Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame inductee, retired Col. David Joe Wheeler, with his daughter, Heidi Wheeler.*

The 235th Regiment, Kansas Army National Guard, Salina, hosts the annual OCS Hall of Fame and Commissioning Ceremonies. In 2003, the OCS Hall of Fame was established by retired Col. Robert Bloomquist, former commander of the 235th Regiment. Its purpose is to pay special tribute to those outstanding officers and leaders who were graduates of the program and have since retired, left the military or passed away.

Officers to be considered for selection into the OCS Hall of Fame must meet one of the following criteria: have attained the rank of colonel or higher, have been awarded a Silver Star or a higher award, were killed in action or died in a combat zone or were held prisoner of war.

When the OCS Hall of Fame was established, it was determined that the induction ceremony would coincide with the commissioning ceremony for the officer candidates that were commissioning as second lieutenants. This allows the newest officers of the Kansas Army National Guard to read the biographies of Hall of Fame inductees, the older officers of the Kansas Army National Guard.



## **Moyer promoted to colonel**

Clearwater resident and Kansas National Guard member Clint Moyer was promoted by the 35th Infantry Division Commander, Maj. Gen. John Davoren, to the rank of colonel in a ceremony on Sunday, Aug. 29th, at Fort Leavenworth. Moyer is assigned to the division as the fire effects coordinator.

Moyer has served in Bosnia for two tours and another tour in Southwest Asia. He has been a long-term member of the 1st Battalion, 161st Field Artillery and is an educator for children with special needs in civilian employment.

*Photo by Sgt. Heather Wright, 35th Infantry Division Public Affairs.*

# Army unit conducts joint hazard exercises

*By Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD*

The Kansas National Guard's 73rd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) conducted joint hazard materials exercises in the last month with several city and county fire departments.

The exercises are designed to better prepare the agencies to jointly respond to potential weapons of mass destruction events.

The 73rd Civil Support Team (CST) supports civilian authorities at a domestic chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high yield explosive (CBRNE) incident site by identifying CBRNE agents/substances, assessing current and projected consequences, advising on response measures and assisting with appropriate requests for state support.

Topeka fire fighter, DeWayne Bouton, who is the Engine #8 captain says it's the first time his crew has trained with the 73rd CST.

"This is beneficial to all of us," Bouton said. "It helps us understand what benefits and equipment the military and civilian authorities have for each other when responding to some type of disaster. We've had lots of small calls over the years, but if something big were to happen—well, this is what this training is for."

See HAZARDS, Page 33



**(Above photo)** A 73rd CST team member gives a 'thumbs up' to signify he's ready to enter a contaminated area.

**(Lower left photo)** 73rd CST survey team leader 2nd Lt. Dustin Nash appraises CST and fire department members of the safety issues facing the teams before they ingress the structure.

**(Lower right photo)** Topeka fire department members find a simulated casualty and suspected dangerous chemicals. A 73rd CST evaluator ensures procedures are correctly followed.



## From HAZARDS, Page 32

For the exercise in Topeka, the teams found themselves facing a simulated drug manufacturing laboratory that had exploded, contaminated the area with deadly chemicals, and caused the deaths of two simulated drug manufacturers.

Commanding officer for the 73rd Civil Support Team, Lt. Col. Dirk Christian says that there is always a potential for a large event in Kansas that would mandate this type of response.

“We train like this monthly with civilian authorities all across the state,” he said. “Next month we may be in Dodge City, Kansas City, Wichita—it’s all about being trained with, so you can assist those local civilian first responders to any emergency.”

Maj. Scott Chew, the unit’s deputy commander said an important part of the training is to familiarize each department and group to the operations, tactics and equipment of each other.

“This cuts down response time and will save lives in case of an emergency,” he said.

“The more we are all familiar with each other’s tactics and equipment, we can do our jobs in a safer environment and be timely in alleviating the emergency.”

During the exercises, great detail was giving out during the planning phases for entering a suspected contaminated area.



(Above photo, from left) 73rd CST commander, Lt. Col. Dirk Christian and deputy commander, Maj. Scott Chew discuss what hazards teams may find upon entry.

(Right photo) Topeka fire department members suit up to begin the training.

(Far right photo) 73rd CST members approach contaminated areas with their equipment.

Photos by Maj. Mike Wallace, 105th MPAD



(Above photo) 73rd CST operations officer, Capt. Feng Zhang, briefs the crews on the strategic workings of the operation for the exercise.

The units had a very detailed joint entry meeting, where they saw the live video feed from the area. This helped identify what types of hazards and the laboratory types.

The 73rd Civil Support Team is a compilation of Kansas National Guard Soldiers and Airmen. Because of this training, in the event of an emergency, they can provide information to the incident civilian commander, make recommendations to him and support him on his objectives when dealing with any type of emergency.



## 35th Division 2010 Leadership Awards

The following individuals as named by the 35th Division will be honored by the Association at the coming 35th Division Association Reunion at Branson, Mo., on Sep. 18, for exceptional leadership in the performance of their duties.

**The Command Sgt. Maj. Jack L. Elliott Junior Enlisted Award:** Spc. Tara Rains, Human Resource Specialist, Personnel Section.

**The Sgt. Kenneth L. Faulkner Noncommissioned Officer award:** Sgt. 1st Class Lee Girard, Operations Sergeant, Operations Section

**The Capt. Walter R. Harrington Junior Grade Officer Award:** Capt. Nicole Night, Human Resource Officer, Personnel Section

**The Col. Angelo P. Demos Field Grade Officer Award:** Maj. Ron Boyer, Future Operations Planner, Operations Section

The recipients will be honored with a framed certificate and coins (35th Division Commanding General Coin).



### Senator Brownback Speaks at Dining out

(lower left photo) United States Senator Sam Brownback spoke at the recent annual Kansas Area Medical Detachment's annual dining in. He spoke of problems that face America today and thanked all the attending Soldiers and guests for their service to the county.



(left photo) Incoming unit commander of the Kansas Area Medical Detachment, 1st Lt. Elizabeth Tipton, was host for the event.

During the night, a Meritorious Service Medal was awarded to Lt. Col. Allen White for his outstanding abilities and leadership for the unit.

*Photos provided*

## Order your bricks for the 635th Armor Regiment

Memorial Bricks for the 635th Regimental Patio/Walkway at the Museum of the Kansas National Guard project are being ordered. The paving bricks are purchased, the 35th Division Annex is complete and the area leading to the tank is available for the project.

With your prompt response, the original walkway will include your inscribed brick along with the 'Will to Win' Crest and historical dates of the 635th Tank Destroyers, 1st and 2nd Battalions, 635th Armor.

This is the time to honor your company, your service or your family by ordering your inscribed memorial.

Return your desired inscription and tax deductible contribution payable to the Museum of the Kansas National Guard.

The plan is to have the patio completed in early October 2010.

Museum of the Kansas National Guard  
ATTN: 635th Armor Regiment  
6700 S Topeka Boulevard, Bldg 301  
P.O. 19285  
Topeka, KS 66619-0285

Exterior Brick (\$50 each) Inscription is 2 lines, max 16 spaces per line:

The Regimental Staff remains active to administer the 635th Regimental Scholarship Fund and support the Armor Soldiers and Cavalry Scouts in the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 137th Infantry, 35th Division, and Kansas Guard units.

# Local and Community events

Just a reminder to keep checking the Community Support Website. We are adding new things all of the time. Check it out at: <http://kansastag.ks.gov/>

The Kansas City Chiefs will have a special military offer for their game on Oct. 31. As soon as the information is in, it will be posted to the website.

A **Bobbi Gellhaus Cancer Benefit** (daughter of Lt. Col. Les Gellhaus) will be held on Sunday, Oct. 17 at Ravenwood Lodge, 10147 SW 61st Street, Topeka. The event begins at 7:45 a.m. and prizes will be drawn at 12:30 p.m. If you cannot attend but will still like to make a donation a bank account has also been established to benefit Bobbi.

Proceeds will help with medical and travel expenses. Donations may be sent to the Citizens State Bank in Burlington, Gridley, Lyndon and New Strawn. The donations should be sent in care of the Bobbi Gellhaus Cancer Fund. More info on the bank can be found at [www.bankcsb.biz](http://www.bankcsb.biz)

The Marine Corps League Golf Committee is sponsoring a tournament in Topeka, Kansas on **Friday, October 15th, 2010 at Cypress Ridge Golf Course in Topeka, Kansas. For more informa-**

**tion contact** Keith Viau 256.289.0824. Check out the website, <http://kansastag.ks.gov/> and click the quicklinks site; support the troops; then quicklink, community support.

**"JAKES"** camp at Camp Hammond, Berryton, Kansas, will be held on Sept. 25 and 26. This camp is being presented by the Kansas Chapter of National Wild Turkey Federation.

Purpose: **Jason Pridmore's STAR** motorcycle school is teaming up with the National Guard to increase the level of safe riding awareness of our soldiers, and through practical applications and exercises, make them better and, most importantly, safer riders on public roads.

This school is FREE to all military members. They still have lots of spots left in this class. It is a great opportunity for all military members. One reservation per person. Use code #NG2010 at <http://www.starmotorcycle.com/events.htm> Please include your Military Rank and Unit and Don't forget your MSF Card. Please review the Letter of Instruction for details for Kansas National Guard members.

## From GENERATIONS, Page 28

Sometime during his conversation they talked about writing down goals and he used the example of his three by five card that he wrote his goals on when he was a new lieutenant, all of which have all been met or exceeded but one, as he has not built his own airplane yet.

Schaefer says that her relatives taught her valuable lessons. "They taught me that doing something right the first time is easier than doing it wrong a dozen time, and they taught me to love what you do," she said.

She says she was overwhelmed the day her grandfather and father pinned on her new rank.

"It felt like just a few days before, that I had sat in the back of the auditorium and watched OCS Class 53 graduate, and now I was graduating. By

the time we got to the pinning ceremony, it just felt like everything was moving so fast that I might blink and miss it."

"It was especially touching to me that dad and grandpa went to all the trouble to find an old set of my grandpa's second lieutenant bars to present me during my pinning," Schafer said.

She says that the OCS program taught her that planning, preparation and a motivated execution of plans are very important.

"It was demonstrated through rehearsals," she said, "of any plans we wrote. During the last phase of our training, I witnessed how a good plan can cause excellent results. It just reinforces my dad's advice about properly planning to prevent poor performance—good advice."

Schaefer and her husband Kevin, have been married for six years.

## Military Personnel Officer retires

Col. Timothy Marlar, the military personnel officer for the State of Kansas retired after 36 years of service on Sept. 7, 2010 at the Joint Force Headquarters in Topeka, Kan.

As military personnel officer, Marlar was responsible for the personnel actions for more than 5,600 Soldiers.

“Marlar distinguished himself through consistently superior performance in all assignments, including battalion command and senior staff positions,” said Bunting as he awarded Marlar his Legion of Merit.

“Through his calm intellect and professional tenacity, he demonstrated exemplary leadership and unwavering dedication to duty, thereby enhancing the capacity and readiness of the units under his command and within his influence,” Bunting said.

He was also awarded certificates from the President of the United States, and the Governor of Kansas. Mrs. Karen Marlar was also awarded a Department of the Army Certificate of Appreciation from General George W. Casey, the United States Army Chief of Staff for her unselfish, faithful and devoted service during her husband’s career.

Marlar entered the Army National Guard in 1974 and received his commission in 1986. During his career, he has served in a variety of positions, included battery executive officer, battalion training officer, battalion personnel officer, battery commander, company and battalion fire support officer, division artillery training officer, fire direction officer, recruiting command commander, division artillery operations officer and battalion commander.

His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon and the Master Recruiter’s Badge.

He holds a Masters Degree in strategic studies from Carlisle, Pa., a Master’s in Business Administration from Webster’s University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Western Illinois University. His military education includes the Army War College, National Security Strategy from National Defense University, Command and General Staff College, Field Artillery Pre-Command Course, Combined Arms Staff and Service School, Field Artillery Advanced and Basic Course, and Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga.

Marlar has served as president of the National Guard Association of Kansas, president of the Kiwanis Club of downtown Hutchinson, on committees for the Museum of the Kansas National Guard and currently serves on the executive board of directors for three organizations, Kansas STARBASE, the Kansas National Guard Hall of Fame and the NBC Hap Dumont Youth Baseball.

He lives with his wife, Karen, and son, Storm, in Newton. They also have two adult children and a daughter that also live in Newton, Staff Sgt. Seth and Kelly Marlar and daughter, Sarah Marlar. They have two grandsons, Jackson and Peyton.



(above, from left) Kansas Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tod M. Bunting presented a certificate of appreciation to Mrs. Karen Marlar for her continued support of her husband, Col. Timothy Marlar. Bunting also awarded the Legion of Merit to Marlar.  
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Witzke, 105th MPAD

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sept. 18**—HQ 235th Regiment ribbon cutting ceremony for 92 CMF National Training Center, 11 a.m., Bldg. 412, 2804 Arnold Avenue, Salina.

**Sept. 18**—235th Regiment’s 15th Annual Adjutant General’s Physical Fitness competition, 9 a.m. (registration from 7-8:40 a.m.). Military, high school and others are urged to enter their teams. For more information, location and access to forms, contact Sgt. 1st Class Larry Patrick at 785-822-6617.

**Sept. 25**—HQ, 891st Engineer Regimental Ball and Golf Tourney—Coffeyville Community College, 400 W. 11th St. *For more information contact Capt. Sean Linn, 620-365-4021 or sean.linn@us.army.mil*